



Local partnerships promoting wellness
by addressing substance abuse statewide.

January 6, 2011

The CT Prevention Network of Regional Action Councils is opposed to the extension to Sunday retail sales of alcoholic beverages. The responsible use of alcohol by adults can be well served by continuing the retail sales under the current policy. Alcohol is not an "emergency" purchase. Adults who wish to purchase alcohol are well aware of the current hours of sale and the "convenience" of purchase of alcohol on a Sunday does not balance with the potential abuse and economic costs to the state and cities.

As Regional Action Councils on Substance Abuse, we too often hear that Fridays and Saturdays are the times for underage purchase and consumption of alcohol. Extending sales to an additional weekend day may only serve to encourage further teen purchases. Marketing and sales to underage drinkers in CT is already a major concern.

The cost of the abuse of alcohol in the State of Connecticut already reaches into the millions of dollars. It is well documented in the budgets of the Department of Social Services, the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, and the Department of Children and Families. State and local Departments of Transportation and Public Safety see the effects on our highways each day. Local hospitals and treatment centers deal with the consequences of alcohol use and abuse.

Extending the sale of alcohol to Sundays will put a burden on small retailers and local police departments. If any of the rationale to do this is connected with the potential, and we believe erroneous, belief that additional tax revenue would be received by the State through additional sale hours – it needs to be balanced with the additional costs to our community. Responsible consumers of alcohol currently adjust their buying patterns to the current sale hours. They will not purchase "more" alcohol simply because stores are open on Sunday.

We urge the Legislature to leave the current statutes concerning the sale of alcoholic beverages to exclude Sunday sales. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Marlene F. McGann

Marlene F. McGann
Executive Director
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